

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6305

INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC ELAB IN

SUBJ: AAFLI ARRANGEMENT/FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO MR. M.K.

RAGHAVAN

REF: MADRAS 0868 (NOTAL)

1. MR. M.K. RAGHAVAN, PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT COCHIN THURAMUGHA THOZHILALI UNION (CTTU) AND AFFILIATE OF ALL-INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF) PLANS PERSONAL VISIT UNITED STATES USING EXCURSION FARE FACILITY BETWEEN BOMBAY/NEW YORK/ BOMBAY FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS BEGINNING IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 3. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, S.R. KULKARNI, PRESIDENT, AIPDWF, HAS CABLED ILA PRESIDENT GLEASON REGARDING RAGHAVAN'S VISIT.

2. WHILE IN US, RAGHAVAN WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO VISIT NEW YORK, WASHINGTON D.C., BALTIMORE, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW ORLEANS AND SAN FRANCISCO AND MEET WITH GLEASON AND HIS ASSOCIATES, AFL-CIO OFFICIALS AT THE HEADQUARTERS, ITS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, AND THE MARITIME TRADES DEPARTMENT, AND OFFICIALS AT A UNIVERSITY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEND ABOUT 15 DAYS OF HIS 30-DAY STAY. HIS MAJOR INTEREST IS VISITS TO PORTS, STUDY PORT OPERATIONS. AND WORKING CONDITIONS AND TRADE UNION FUNCTIONS. RAGHAVAN HAS LIMITED FOREIGN EXCHANGE COVERING APPROXIMATELY A WEEK OF HIS STAY BUT WOULD LIKE TO STAY LONGER IF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE POSSIBLE TO COVER HIS INTERNAL TRAVEL AND STAY. IF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE

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NOT POSSIBLE, HE WILL CUT BACK TRAVEL AND LENGTH

OF STAY BUT WOULD STILL APPRECIATE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS, HOSPITALITY AND CONCESSIONAL HOTEL RATES.

3. BIODATA: MID 50'S; BA, LLB; CONGRESS (R) MEMBER OF KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY; VICE PRESIDENT, AIPDWF; MEMBER, COCHIN PORT TRUST AND COCHIN DOCK LABOUR BOARD; MEMBER, COCHIN UNIVERSITY SYNDICATE AND ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE STATE'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES;

FORMERLY CHAIRMAN, COCHIN MUNICIPALITY FOR MANY YEARS. TRADE UNIONIST SINCE 1946.

4. IF POSSIBLE, DESIRABLE FOR AAFLI TO ARRANGE RAGHAVAN'S STAY AND PROGRAMMING TO PERMIT HIM TO STAY LONGER THAN MINIMUM PERIOD POSSIBLE ON OWN RESOURCES. RAGHAVAN IS IMPORTANT TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL CONTACT IN SOUTH INDIA.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE SOONEST RE AAFLI ARRANGEMENTS AND FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WITH INFORMATION TO MADRAS OF CONTACT POINT FOR RAGHAVAN ON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK. RAGHAVAN HAS NO POINT OF CONTACT YET IN US.
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